

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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O R 142022Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2122
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, VN, CA
SUBJ: MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY ALLEGES CANADIAN ICC REP VN WAS
ACTING IN INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US

1. SUMMARY: JAN 14 MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY ASSERTS
THAT WILLIAM MACOMBER TESTIMONY DURING 1971
PENTAGON PAPERS COURT CASE SHOWS THAT CANADIAN REP
TO VIETNAM ICC PLAYED AN "INTELLIGENCE ROLE" FOR
US AND WAS NOT JUST GO-BETWEEN WITH NORTH VIETNAM.
GAZETTE FURTHER CLAIMS THAT THEN CANADIAN EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MIN MITCHELL SHARP MISLED HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN ASSERTING ICC REP PLAYED ONLY GO-BETWEEN ROLE.
ICC REP BLAIR SEABORN, WHO NOW OTTAWA CIVIL SERVANT,
DENIES GAZETTE INFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN 14 MONTREAL GAZETTE STORY REPORTS THAT
"TOP SECRET" US DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF US
OFFICIAL REVEAL THAT BLAIR SEABORN, CANADA'S CHIEF
REP ON VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION
(ICC) IN 1964-65, HAD "AN INTELLIGENCE ROLE"
FOR THE US AND WAS NOT ACTING MERELY AS US AND
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NORTH VIETNAM GO-BETWEEN.

3. ARTICLE CITES 1971 TESTIMONY OF THEN DEPUTY
UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION WILLIAM MACOMBER
BEFORE US DISTRICT COURT HEARING PENTAGON PAPERS
CASE. MACOMBER REPORTEDLY SAID, "THERE ARE ADDITIONAL
INSTRUCTIONS, AT LEAST ONE THAT I HAVE SEEN IN

THIS MATERIAL WHICH MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT
MR. SEABORN WAS IN FACT ACTING IN AN AGENCY ROLE
FOR US AND IN AN INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US. HE WAS
GIVEN CERTAIN THINGS TO LOOK FOR, VERY DAMAGING AND
CONTRARY TO WHAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW
SAID IN PARLIAMENT."

4. GAZETTE STORY CHARGES THAT THEN ACTING PRIME MINISTER
MITCHELL SHARP MISLED HOUSE OF COMMONS IN JUNE, 1971
STATEMENT THAT SEABORN HAD DONE NO MORE THAN TRANS-
MIT MESSAGES AND HAD NOT ACTED DIRECTLY ON BEHALF
OF U.S. GAZETTE POINTS TO PURPORTED MACOMBER
TESTIMONY THAT, "NOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS
BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THIS (THE BOOK). BUT IT WASN'T
UNTIL THE DOCUMENTS CAME OUT THAT THERE WAS A
TREMENDOUS FUROR AND THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER HAD
TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH
DOCUMENTS THAT WILL EMERGE." BOOK REFERRED TO IS
"THE LAST CRUSADE" BY CHESTER L. COOPER AND,
ACCORDING TO GAZETTE, IT DEALT AT SOME LENGTH
WITH SEABORN MISSION.

5. SEABORN WHO IS NOW DEPUTY MINISTER IN
ENVIRONMENT CANADA WAS CONTACTED BY GAZETTE AND HE
DENIED HAVING PLAYED INTELLIGENCE ROLE FOR US.
GAZETTE QUOTES HIM AS SAYING, "THERE MAY HAVE BEEN
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA,
ASKING THAT I SEEK CERTAIN INFORMATION, BUT IF
THERE WAS, I WAS NEVER AWARE OF IT AND I ONLY SOUGHT
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WHAT MY GOVERNMENT ASKED FOR."

6. COMMENT: HOUSE OF COMMONS IN CHRISTMAS RECESS
UNTIL JAN 24 PREVENTING REACTION IN THAT FORUM.
WE EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT GAZETTE STORY WILL
GIVE RISE TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES.
WE PLAN NO COMMENT RESPONSE IF QUERIED.
ENDERS

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